

is an expression, it's a way to release, relax, communicate, and to beautify. And that is what KaVonya does, she's an artist. She turns eyesores into beautiful eye pieces to look at. Right now she has been given the charge to lead the effort at her school to paint murals to represent the school spirit. This meant presenting herself as a leader in a way that other students would follow and listen to. She had the task of all the preliminary planning, choosing fellow artists that could help her complete this awesome responsibility. This project is scheduled to be completed May 1, 2013. KaVonya has plans to attend college to study art. She says, "Life is too short to not pursue your dreams. I dream of art, academic achievement, and completing my college degree . . ." I wish her much success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. KaVonya Walker for her current active role as a student making a difference as an artist.

CONGRATULATIONS TO U.S. BANK

HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and offer congratulations to U.S. Bank, who was awarded the prestigious Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) organization.

The Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 to recognize exceptional support of the U.S. Armed Forces from the employer community, and is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to employers for outstanding support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

U.S. Bank is one of only 15 honorees out of nearly 2,900 nominated companies. Through U.S. Bank's companywide initiative called Proud to Serve, thousands of veterans have been hired and supported over the past five years.

The numbers are impressive. U.S. Bank committed to hiring 1,000 service members and veterans between 2012 and 2013 and surpassed its 2012 goal by hiring 597 new veterans.

Minnesota is home to many great corporate citizens like U.S. Bank who are dedicated to supporting those who have made great sacrifices to defend freedom, liberty and our country. Congratulations to U.S. Bank for receiving the Employer Support Freedom Award and thank you for your support of our nation's veterans.

Floyd Sears was a national leader of grassroots military retirees who achieved remarkable legislative success in righting what they knew was a wrong. He represented the best of the military retirees whom we all represent.

I am grateful to Floyd Sears, a great American citizen in the truest sense, who joined the military in his youth when duty called and devoted his career to defending our freedoms, and then, in his retirement, exercised those freedoms to help make our country a better place.

Health care for our military community is a priority for me as it was for Floyd, and it is a privilege to represent the district that is home to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Walter Reed is the crown jewel of military medicine, serving our country's active and retired military and especially the wounded who have suffered greatly in the most difficult circumstances. Congress has provided the resources that were necessary to ensure that the new Walter Reed can provide world-class health care to our uniformed service personnel.

However, Floyd's generation did not always receive that level of attention. Floyd became a leader in the effort to restore retiree health care benefits that his generation of enlistees was losing. These individuals had been promised health care upon their retirement when they enlisted in the military services in their youth. But those benefits were pulled out from under them when they retired after a career of at least 20 years due to unintended consequences of legislative and administrative changes in military health care.

Floyd recognized how these legal changes were stripping him and his colleagues of the retiree health care benefits that they earned and richly deserved. Nearly 20 years ago, he began his personal crusade to amend the law and restore those promised benefits. What began as one man sending letters to his local newspaper and representative in Congress became a nationwide grassroots effort connected by the Internet. Ultimately, Floyd, his good friend Jim Whittington and others, on behalf of their grassroots army, inspired the introduction of the "Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act," which led to the enactment of Tricare for Life, a great leap towards fulfilling Floyd's dream of full restoration of the benefits he had been promised.

Floyd never intended to draw attention to himself. But with his passing we can admire what one person can accomplish when he puts his mind, his heart, and his energy into it.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the extraordinary contributions that Floyd Sears, a truly great American, made to our nation.

Currently serving as the Fire Chief of the Modesto Regional Fire Authority, Gary Hinshaw also serves as the Fire Warden and Assistant Director of Emergency Services for Stanislaus County. Prior to joining the County team in June 2002, Gary enjoyed a long-term career in the fire service starting as a wildland firefighter with the United States Forest Service in 1973 on the Stanislaus National Forest. His first full-time position as a firefighter was with the Modesto Fire Department, beginning on November 21, 1978. He remained in that position for two years and was promoted through the ranks; four years as a Fire Engineer, seven years as a Captain, four years as a Battalion Chief and nine years as a Division Chief. He was appointed Interim Fire Chief of Modesto Regional Fire Authority on April 20, 2012.

During his career, Chief Hinshaw has championed the concept of a close and effective working relationship between the fire service and the pre-hospital medical community; he served as the Chair of the Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Care Committee.

Chief Hinshaw's assignments within the Office of Emergency Services have included: Chair of Stanislaus County Domestic Terrorism Task Force, President of Stanislaus County Fire Chief's Association, Operational Area Coordinator for the Stanislaus Operational Area Council, Stanislaus County Mutual Aid Coordinator, Operational Coordinator for Stanislaus County Arson Task Force, Region IV Representative to Cal EMA Standardized Emergency Management, Administrator of the Homeland Security Grant Programs, and Manager Stanislaus County Emergency Operations Center.

Chief Hinshaw has been involved in numerous instructional opportunities within the community, including instructor at Modesto Junior College Fire Science Program, County Public Information Officer Training, Weapons of Mass Destruction for First Responder Agencies, Incident Command System/Standardized Emergency Management System, High Rise Strategy and Tactics, and Strike Team Leader.

Chief Hinshaw has been recognized by his colleagues with many awards and accolades. He is well respected on a state and local level in the fire service and CalEMA arenas.

Chief Hinshaw is married and has a daughter, a son-in-law and a grandson. He is active in his church and enjoys photography, boating and the outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the outstanding contributions made to fire service and Stanislaus County by Modesto Regional Fire Authority Chief Gary Hinshaw and hereby wish him continued success in his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO FLOYD SEARS, A LEADER OF THE MILITARY RETIREE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Floyd Sears of Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Floyd passed away on June 5, 2013 at the age of 82.

HONORING MODESTO REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY CHIEF GARY HINSHAW

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Modesto Regional Fire Authority Chief Gary Hinshaw, who announced his retirement after serving 35 years in the fire service.

HONORING VICTOR MOORE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student, Victor Moore.

Victor is the son of Ms. Linda Moore and Mr. Vicky Ivy of Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Victor was raised by his loving grandmother, Ms. Reola Moore who he cherishes. She encouraged him to reach for the stars and become a success story in his own right. He excelled in elementary school and upon graduating he entered Coahoma County High School. During his freshmen year, he was sent to the Alternative School twice, failed and was retained. After making it to his sophomore year, he returned to the Alternative School and made it through his junior and senior year of high school without any disciplinary problems, and was a team member of the basketball and football teams.

Victor has successfully overcome his struggles, and in May 2013 will be the first to graduate high school in his family.

Victor has learned the importance of an education, and plans to further his education at Coahoma Community College in Clarksdale, Mississippi to become a licensed barber. Upon completing his degree he desires to open his own barber shop where he will be able to give back to his community and assist his family.

Victor credits his teachers, Mr. John Howard, Ms. Tonja Taylor, Ms. Wilma Bays, Ms. Sonya Rockett and his school guidance counselor, Ms. LaTasha Stringer, for seeing what he can become and not giving up on him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Victor Moore for his dedication in being an outstanding student.

HONORING DOMAINE CHANDON'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Domaine Chandon Winery on the occasion of their 40th year in production in the Napa Valley. Founded in 1973, it was the first winery in America established by a French wine and spirits producer.

The Moët & Chandon partnership sought prime growing locations in the Napa Valley, and selected vineyards in Mt. Veeder, Carneros, and Yountville to carry on their tradition of excellence. Today, Domaine Chandon continues as a leader in the winemaking field, using sustainable farming practices to maintain their 1,000 acres in the Napa Valley.

The Domaine Chandon Winery has served as a training ground for many industry leaders in the areas of winery management, winemaking, grapegrowing, the culinary arts, restaurant management and farming. The company released their first sparkling wine in 1976, and today their innovative practices in sparkling wine production are followed by sparkling wine producers throughout the world.

Domaine Chandon's history of excellence does not stop at sparkling wine. More than a quarter of its employees have been with the winery for more than 20 years, and the company hired the first sparkling wine maker in the United States. The winery's culture maintains high standards of excellence and innovation.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Domaine Chandon for their immense contribution to the Napa Valley.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 305, 306, and 307, on July 8, 2013, I was unable to be on the floor for votes. Due to weather delays and aircraft problems at the Detroit Airport. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN MEMORY OF CINDY ANN KOSSER DUBOIS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the memory of a bright light for the arts that my community lost on Tuesday, July 2nd. But more importantly, Andy DuBois and their children, Madeline, 15, and Hunter, 11, lost a wonderful wife and a special mother.

From her birth in Austin she grew up in New Braunfels where she was class president and homecoming queen at Canyon High School. She graduated from the University of Texas where she met the love of her life, Andy. At every step in her life Cindy DuBois put her heart and soul into everything she did.

She started her career deep in the Rio Grande Valley at a PBS station in Harlingen and went on to manage public relations for South Padre Island before her family moved to The Woodlands and she found her calling in the arts. From helping grow major events like The Woodlands Children's Festival and the Waterway Arts Festival, Cindy DuBois will always be remembered for her smile and her determination to bring the arts to everyone.

It's fitting that her CEO called her a "driving force" for the arts, because under Cindy DuBois' leadership, attendance nearly tripled for art events at The Woodlands' famed Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. From the Houston Symphony to performances by the Houston Ballet and the Houston Grand Opera and many more artists, the growing enthusiasm for the arts in The Woodlands is a testament to Cindy DuBois. The outreach, savvy marketing/public relations efforts, and many smiles from this 2007 graduate of Leadership Montgomery County moved mountains.

That same spirit, determination and grace sustained her during a lengthy battle with cholangiocarcinoma, a rare cancer. At her touching and emotional funeral service held July 5th at The Woodlands Pavilion, where her remarkable children, sisters, friends and family paid tribute to her, it's clear The Woodlands and all who know her have been touched forever by Cindy's positive attitude and infectious glass-half-full philosophy.

As Andy, Madeline, and Hunter begin a much different phase as a family, they have wonderful memories of bowls of homemade salsa, scary movies and board games and her cheers at Rush soccer and ORWALL baseball. While the community is heartbroken, we are

so grateful for all Cindy has given us to remember her by. In every concert, in every fine arts performance, I'm confident she will always be there.

TRIBUTE TO MISS STEPHANIE MICHELLE COLLUM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a bright young lady, Miss Stephanie Michelle Collum.

Stephanie Michelle Collum, a lifelong resident of Benton, Mississippi, was born on September 22, 1994. She is a part of the 2013 Yazoo County High School graduating class.

Stephanie believes in the old adage, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste," and for this reason she strives for excellence. She is active in both school and community activities. She is a member of the American Legion, National Honor Society, and both the volleyball and softball teams at school. Recently, Stephanie was selected to attend the Lock Heed Martin 5th Information Technology Day because of her academic achievements. Also she is a member of the JROTC where she was promoted to the leadership of 1st Sergeant and received the National Fitness Award.

Stephanie is a faithful member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Benton, MS where she sings in the choir. Recognizing that each day is a gift from God, she strives to live each day with purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Miss Stephanie Michelle Collum for her hard work, dedication and a strong desire to achieve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding my absence from the House for the first vote on the evening of July 8, 2013. I would like to submit how I would have voted had I been in attendance for the following vote:

Rollcall No. 305, on Agreeing to On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1341. I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall vote on July 8, 2013 and would like the record to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 306: "no."